

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jeffrey Stephenson, having been first duly sworn, do hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am employed by the Vermont State Police as a Detective Trooper. I am assigned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") as a Task Force Officer and am tasked with investigating crimes involving violence, gangs, and controlled substances. I am a certified law enforcement officer in the State of Vermont, and have been for over 12 years. As an FBI Task Force Officer, I am authorized to investigate violations of laws of the United States under Titles 18 and 21. During my career, I have received extensive training related to criminal investigations. I have authored numerous search warrants and participated in hundreds of criminal investigations, many involving the violation of controlled substance laws.

2. Although I did not directly participate in the investigation described below, I base my information from reviewing an affidavit of probable cause, drafted by Bennington Police Department Officer Amanda Thomson, additional information provided to me by Officer Thomson verbally, and in reports, and other law enforcement officers directly involved in the investigation.

3. Because this affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause to believe Christopher M. MAIN (hereinafter "MAIN") violated 21 U.S.C. § 856(a)(1) by using and maintaining a drug-involved premises, I have not set forth each and every fact learned by law enforcement during the course of the investigation.

PROBABLE CAUSE

4. On or about June 15, 2018, Officer Amanda Thomson of the Bennington (Vermont) Police Department obtained a search warrant, authorizing a search of 217 Washington Avenue in

Bennington, Vermont. I have attached to this Affidavit as Exhibit 1 the search warrant, application, and affidavit of Officer Thomson.

5. When the search warrant was executed on June 15, 2018, law enforcement located Christopher MAIN and Breanna Gardner inside the residence. Both MAIN and Gardner told law enforcement that they were residing at 217 Washington Avenue, Bennington, Vermont. No other persons were found to be present at the residence.

6. After being informed of her *Miranda* rights, Gardner was interviewed. Gardner told law enforcement that she and MAIN used drugs together and that there were drugs and money in the house, located somewhere on the second level. Gardner advised that only MAIN goes upstairs to deal with the drugs and money. When customers come to their house to purchase drugs from MAIN, he deals with them directly on the first level. Gardner described seeing customers provide money to MAIN, in the form of \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills. MAIN takes that money to the second level of the house while the customer(s) wait on the first level. Shortly after, MAIN returns to the first level with drugs for the customer(s), but not the money. Gardner was aware of a large amount of currency on the second floor but did not know where it was kept, or how much was there. Gardner admitting using crack (cocaine base) within the residence. Additionally, Gardner told Officer Thomson that both she and MAIN used drugs together inside the residence. According to Gardner, MAIN uses both crack (cocaine base) and heroin, while she uses crack (cocaine base).

7. After being informed of his *Miranda* rights, MAIN was interviewed. MAIN told law enforcement that he and Gardner use an assortment of drugs. MAIN also advised there was around \$5,000 located in a piece of clothing (within the residence); MAIN stated that this money was from an inheritance.

8. During the search of the residence, law enforcement located a white powdery substance suspected to be cocaine. The suspected cocaine was weighed and found to be approximately 34 grams (1.2 ounces) with packaging. It was later field-tested, and it tested positive for cocaine. The suspected cocaine was packaged inside a clear plastic bag. A brown powdery substance suspected to be heroin was also located in the residence. This suspected heroin was found to be approximately 3 grams with packaging.¹ The suspected heroin was later field-tested, and it tested positive for fentanyl.

9. The following prescription pills were located in the residence and identified during the search: Buprenorphine (38 pills), Buprenorphine (2 sublingual strips), Oxycodone Hydrochloride 5 Mg (2 pills), Buprenorphine 5 Mg (6 pills), Trazodone 50 Mg (16 pills), Lorazepam (12 pills), Oxycodone Hydro (13 pills), Oxycodone (6 pills), and Gabapentin (43 capsules). Several other prescription pills were located with prescriptions.

10. The following drug paraphernalia items were located within, and throughout the residence: multiple sandwich bags that contained a white powdery substance; a digital scale; multiple pieces of straws; a bag containing lubrication, rubber bands, condoms, and empty sandwich bags; glassine bags with different stamps containing a brown colored residue; containers containing glass smoking pipes with a brown residue, chore boy copper filters, and a straw. The wax-paper/glassine bags containing a brown-colored residue were marked with various stamps including "Blue Magic" and a star logo. A white powdery substance was located on a plate in a room within the residence. This substance field-tested positive for cocaine. Based on my training and experience, I recognize these items as being associated with drug use and


¹ The suspected heroin (which field-tested positive for fentanyl) was weighed within its packaging. This packaging consisted of plastic bags and contained a pill capsule. The approximate weight of the suspected fentanyl is likely far less than three grams if weighed without packaging. Due to safety concerns when dealing with suspected fentanyl, no further field-analysis was conducted.

distribution. The items listed above, including the suspected controlled substances and paraphernalia, were located in multiple rooms within both the first floor and second floor of the residence at 217 Washington Avenue, Bennington, Vermont.

11. In an upstairs bedroom, inside a small colored purse, law enforcement located \$7,461 of United States Currency consisting of primarily \$20, \$50, and \$100 bills. Law enforcement seized this currency and transported it to the Bennington Police Department.

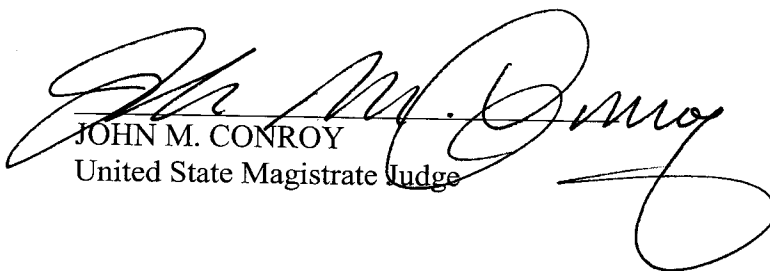
12. In sum, I believe there is probable cause to believe MAIN violated 21 U.S.C. § 856(a)(1), using or maintaining a drug-involved premises.

Dated at Burlington, in the District of Vermont, this 25th day of June 2018.



JEFFREY STEPHENSON
Task Force Officer
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of June 2018.



JOHN M. CONROY
United State Magistrate Judge